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NEW TYPES OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY SHOWN AT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

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New types of farm animals, birds, and bees - the latest link in the chain of scientific knowledge that connects basic research with the most efficient production of meat, milk, wool, eggs, and honey on American farms and ranches - recently went on display at the Agricultural Research Center before a group of agricultural editors and radio farm directors. Leaders of breeding programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture lined up results of their work at the Center, a 12,000-acre experiment farm at Beltsville, Md., devoted to the scientific solution of farm problems.

Creating a new livestock or poultry strain is a time-consuming task, calling for endless patience, as well as great skill. Nature began it eons ago. She crossed animals; she inbred them; she subjected them to mysterious forces powerful enough to bring about changes in the germ stuff that determined their characteristics. Out of these processes, carried on through millions of years, myriads of forms of living things arose. For a long time after man came on the scene he took what Nature gave him. But eventually he started to capture young animals and tame them. As he gained experience, he became dissatisfied with what Nature provided and began making improvements by selecting the best animals and mating them. Long before the dawn of history these generations of picking and choosing had resulted in most of the major types of domestic animals we have today.

Genetics - the relatively new science of the quality of life as it passes from one generation to the other - offers the modern breeder a better tool than the "survival of the fittest" methods of his predecessor. He draws up a blue print of the new type he seeks, selects parents having as many of the desired characteristics as possible, and launches a carefully planned breeding program, based on the principles of genetics. This includes crossbreeding, inbreeding, outbreeding, linebreeding, and backcrossing until an animal meeting the specifications has been developed. Then the type is set and enough animals are bred to provide foundation stock for commercial breeders, who supply farmers and ranchers.

The pictures on the opposite side of this sheet, 8 by 10 glossy prints of which may be obtained by writers and editors from Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., show part of the 1949 crop of Beltsville babies and parents exhibited to the editors and broadcasters.

(1) Dr. T. C. Byerly welcomes the farm editors to the poultry range
(2) Shows the sire in an experimental flock to J. H. Florea, Editor of the Poultry Tribune
(3) And one of the crossbred hens in the flock to J. S. Russell, Managing Editor of the Des Moines Register-Tribune
(4) John H. Zeller (right) reports on the development of pure strains of hogs from crossbred foundations of Danish Landrace with domestic breeds
(5) Merrill C. Gregory, a Wallaces' Farmer editor, poses with a late addition to the Landrace-Duroc herd
(6) Carroll P. Streeter (left), Managing Editor of the Farm Journal, takes a quick look at a beef cow and her very young calf, while E. W. McComas, who directs research on these animals, keeps the mother calm
(7) Jesse H. Buffum (left), Farm Radio Director, WEEI, and Charles E. Eshbach, Director of New England Farm Radio News Service, look over a three-breed cow in the experimental crossbred dairy herd
(8) The daughter of a Red Sindhi bull from India and a domestic Jersey cow
(9) And a day old son of the same parentage, while Robert E. McDowell persuades the baby bull to face the camera
(10) Samuel R. Guard, Editor of the Breeder's Gazette and Secretary of the Central States Sheep and Wool Association, holds a young lamb from a flock being bred to improve the fur-producing qualities of Karakul sheep
(11) Two farm radio directors - George Zeis (left) of WBNS and Tom Page of WNBC, get a preview of a new strain of bees. Apiculturist W. J. Nolan holds the frame; J. I. Hambleton explains the program
(12) Jay Richter, Associate Director, Agricultural Services, makes friends with a young Toggenburg goat.

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